

ABSTRACT

LASER SHOCK PEENING

In a laser shock peening process, the shape of the spot 26 generated by the laser beam 4 is changed on the fly. This is achieved, for example, by a masking device 30 which is movable into and out of the path of the laser beam 4. Laser shock peening spots 24 can consequently be shaped so as to avoid the spots overlapping an edge of the workpiece, or any other feature which may be damaged by the laser energy.